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[0063] Examples of chimeric oligonucleotides include but are not limited to "gapmers," in which three distinct regions are present, normally with a central region flanked by two regions which are chemically equivalent to each other but distinct from the gap. A preferred example of a gapmer is an oligonucleotide in which a central portion (the "gap") of the oligonucleotide serves as a substrate for RNase H and is preferably composed of 2'-deoxynucleotides, while the flanking portions (the 5' and 3' "wings") are modified to have greater affinity for the target RNA molecule but are unable to support nuclease activity (e.g., 2'-fluoro- or 2'-O-methoxyethyl-substituted). Other chimeras include "wingmers," also known in the art as "hemimers," that is, oligonucleotides with two distinct regions. In a preferred example of a wingmer, the 5' portion of the oligonucleotide serves as a substrate for RNase H and is preferably composed of 2'-deoxynucleotides, whereas the 3' portion is modified in such a fashion so as to have greater affinity for the target RNA molecule but is unable to support nuclease activity (e.g., 2'-fluoro- or 2'-O-methoxyethyl-substituted), or vice-versa. In one embodiment, the oligonucleotides of the present invention contain a 2'-O-methoxyethyl (2'-O--CH.sub.2CH.sub.2OCH.sub.3) modification on the sugar moiety of at least one nucleotide. This modification has been shown to increase both affinity of the oligonucleotide for its target and nuclease resistance of the oligonucleotide. According to the invention, one, a plurality, or all of the nucleotide subunits of the oligonucleotides of the invention may bear a 2'-O-methoxyethyl (--O--CH.sub.2CH.sub.2OCH.sub.3) modification. Oligonucleotides comprising a plurality of nucleotide subunits having a 2'-O-methoxyethyl modification can have such a modification on any of the nucleotide subunits within the oligonucleotide, and may be chimeric oligonucleotides. Aside from or in addition to 2'-O-methoxyethyl modifications, oligonucleotides containing other modifications which enhance antisense efficacy, potency or target affinity are also preferred. Chimeric oligonucleotides comprising one or more such modifications are presently preferred. Through use of such modifications, active oligonucleotides have been identified which are shorter than conventional "first generation" oligonucleotides active against mdm2. Oligonucleotides in accordance with this invention are from 5 to 50 nucleotides in length, preferably from about 8 to about 30. In the context of this invention it is understood that this encompasses non-naturally occurring oligomers as hereinbefore described, having from 5 to 50 monomers, preferably from about 8 to about 30.